History

After Göttingen University was founded in 1737, professors started holding chemistry lectures in private. The first chemical institute was founded in 1783, with laboratories being the first facilities. Student laboratories were only introduced in 1805.

Well-known chemists from the early times of the chemical institute were Johann Friedrich Gmelin and his son Leopold. Famous successors were Friedrich Wöhler and Otto Wallach who was the first Göttingen chemist to receive the Nobel Prize for his research on terpenes in 1910.

Subsequently, several Göttingen chemists were awarded this renowned prize for their research. Among them were Adolf Windaus, Walther Nernst and Richard Zsigmondy. The latter is of special significance for Göttingen, because the Membrane Filter Separation Technology division of the Sartorius AG can be traced back to Zsigmondy's work, in particular to the Membrane Filter Society which was founded by him.

In the course of time the research spectrum of the chemical institute at Göttingen grew so wide that it had to be subdivided into different areas. Separate institutes were founded for Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry. After the Second World War, the directors of these institutes, Hans Brockmann, Oskar Glemser and Wilhelm Jost, were successful in re-establishing the international reputation of chemical research in Göttingen.

In 1973/74 there was a change of location: as the existing buildings in the city centre became too small, the Faculty of Chemistry moved to its present premises in the northern area of the University. The Göttingen Chemistry Museum, which is also located there, contains historical laboratory equipment and well-preserved experimental set-ups from the early times of the institute, as well as documents and information regarding personalities who taught and studied in Göttingen.

Initiatives

▶ Partner Companies

Apart from its research collaborations with industry, the Faculty of Chemistry works hand in hand with several partner companies. These cooperation agreements enable students to experience a professional working environment and learn about the various possible career paths at an early stage, through work placement and the lecture series »Careers in Chemistry«. Partner organisations range from large-scale chemical and pharmaceutical companies to regional businesses.

▶ Partner Schools

Three secondary schools in Göttingen – Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium, Felix-Klein-Gymnasium and Georg-Christoph-Lichtenberg-Gesamtschule – are the Faculty's partner schools. The cooperation agreements benefit both the secondary schools' students and the Faculty's students who are studying to become teachers; the latter get the chance to gain first-hand experience through projects such as »team teaching«.

▶ Orientation Week

Before lectures begin, there is an orientation week for the first-semester students at the Faculty of Chemistry. During this week the Departmental Student Organisation provides detailed information about studying Chemistry, about the University, and about the city of Göttingen. Follow-up mentoring is offered in order to help you begin your university studies with ease and to enable you to mingle with your fellow students and to get to know your lecturers quickly.

Initiatives

▶ Key Skills

The Faculty strives to integrate key skills required for professional life into its curriculum. From the first semester of the bachelor's programme until the doctoral process is completed, the respective courses and activities are part of the academic programme. A key skills plan has been drawn up to make the students understand which skills are taught at which stage, and to provide recommendations with regard to creating their individual profiles.

▶ Diversity Management

We value the diversity that exists at our Faculty thanks to the different cultural, gender and social backgrounds of its students and staff members. It is our goal to make the Faculty an attractive place to work and study for everyone. Several measures are in place to improve work-life balance, gender equality, and work in international teams.

Contact and Service

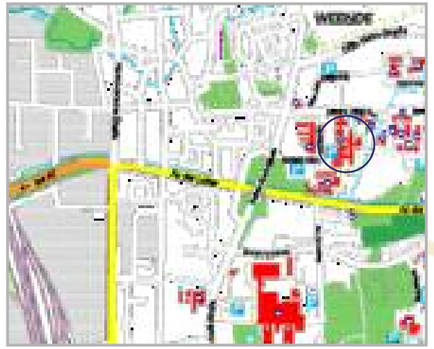
▶ *Dean's Office (including study counselling)*
Tammannstraße 4 · 37077 Göttingen
Phone: +49 (0)551/39-22799
Fax: +49 (0)551/39-3087
E-mail: dekanat@chemie.uni-goettingen.de
Web: www.chemie.uni-goettingen.de

▶ *Departmental Student Organisation (Fachschaft)*
Tammannstraße 4 · 37077 Göttingen
Phone: +49 (0)551/39-3417 ·
Fax +49 (0)551/39-3087
E-mail: fschemie.goettingen@googlemail.com
Web: www.fschemie-goettingen.de

▶ *Examination Office of the Faculties of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences*
Goldschmidstraße 1 · 37077 Göttingen
Phone: +49 (0)551/39-5761,
Fax: +49 (0)551/39-12483
Web: www.uni-goettingen.de/de/47955.html

▶ *Chemistry Museum*
Tammannstraße 4 · 37077 Göttingen
Phone: +49 (0)551/39-3326
Web: www.museum.chemie.uni-goettingen.de
Access and guided tours by arrangement

How to find us:



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT GÖTTINGEN

Chemistry at Göttingen

FACULTY OF CHEMISTRY

Structure

The Faculty of Chemistry consists of three institutes where numerous renowned research groups are working on different research topics, often spanning several fields of research.

- Institute of Inorganic Chemistry
  Tammannstraße 4, 37077 Göttingen
- Institute of Organic and
  Biomolecular Chemistry
  Tammannstraße 2, 37077 Göttingen
- Institute of Physical Chemistry
  Tammannstraße 6, 37077 Göttingen

The Faculty in Numbers

(as of 2009, expressed as full-time equivalent numbers)

- students: 659
- doctoral students: 173
- academic staff: 103
- thereof professors: 14
- technical and administrative staff: 118

Studying

- Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry

In the bachelor's programme in chemistry, the Bachelor of Science degree is awarded after a standard period of study of six semesters. This programme is designed to equip students with a well-founded knowledge of inorganic, organic and physical chemistry, with the basic knowledge of mathematics and physics, with key skills required for professional life, and with the principles of good scientific practice. In the elective area students can begin to familiarise themselves with biomolecular chemistry, catalysis chemistry, or technical chemistry. Optionally, students may choose between two profiles offered during the final phase of the programme. The research-oriented profile serves as a preparation for the subsequent master's programme in chemistry and constitutes the first step towards a career in academic research or industry. The Chemistry and Natural Sciences Communication profile, which includes specifically designed work placement and classes, is designed to prepare students to take up positions in the fields of science journalism, book publishing, or public relations, without further academic training.

Studying

- Master's Degree in Chemistry

The master's programme in chemistry is strongly research-oriented and has a standard period of study of four semesters. A bachelor's degree in chemistry is required to enter this programme. Holders of the Master of Science degree are qualified to take up a professional career; however, most of the graduates decide to

carry on to postgraduate education to earn a doctorate. The master's programme is designed to equip students with in-depth knowledge of the core areas of chemistry; they can choose between different research-related, specialised topics. In the elective area students will focus on one of the following fields: Biomolecular Chemistry, Catalysis Chemistry, Technical and Macromolecular Chemistry, or Theoretical Chemistry. Optionally, part of the programme can be completed abroad.

Studying

- Two-subject Bachelor's Programme

The subject of Chemistry can be selected in the two-subject bachelor's programme for prospective Gymnasium (grammar school) teachers (so-called Teaching Profession profile). In this case, chemistry is studied in combination with another subject, the two subjects being weighed equally. The standard period of study for this programme is six semesters. After obtaining the Bachelor of Arts degree, students can enter the Master of Education programme if they wish to start a career in teaching. In addition to studying the two selected subjects, students acquire knowledge on pedagogy and didactics in the professionalisation area. They benefit from the close, practice-related collaborations that are in place between the Faculty of Chemistry and several partner schools as well as the XLAB.

- Doctoral Programme / GAUSS Graduate School

The Faculty of Chemistry is one of the founding members of the Georg August University School of Science (GAUSS), which is the centre for natural-scientific doctoral studies. Our Faculty offers structured doctoral programmes on the highest scientific level during which the doctoral students, apart from conducting research, take additional courses and gain teaching experience. Special interdisciplinary topics are examined by the doctoral students attached to our three partially international Chemistry Graduate Schools which are supported by the German Research Foundation DFG. The doctoral process is concluded by the viva voce (thesis defence).

- Materials Science

In cooperation with the Faculties of Physics and Geoscience and Geography, the Faculty of Chemistry offers a bachelor's and master's programme in Materials Science. Throughout the programme, students are trained to approach current Materials Science problems in an interdisciplinary way. After obtaining their degree, graduates have the opportunity to enter a doctoral programme in one of the Materials Science research groups affiliated to the participating faculties.

Research

- Research Groups and Networks

The research groups at the Faculty are working on different projects, most of which are designed as interdisciplinary projects. Research at the Faculty is characterised by a high degree of integration not only between the institutes, but with other faculties and neighbouring research establishments such as the Max Planck Institutes. Varied national and international collaborations bear witness to the high degree of integration and linkage which documents the great productivity and achievements of chemical research in Göttingen. These wider networks are manifest in research networks such as graduate schools, collaborative research centres or DFG priority programmes where members of the Faculty are spokespersons or participants in subprojects.

- Research Foci

The scientists at our Faculty are currently dealing with three main research foci. **Functional Biomolecular Chemistry** focuses on the interactions of biomolecules, their systematic modification, and the molecular manipulation of recognition processes or signal induction. **Molecular Catalysis** deals with the application of transition metal catalysis and organocatalysis to achieve enantioselective transformations and bio-inspired as well as polymerisation catalysis. **Energy Transformation – Processes and Materials** examines elementary processes of energy transformation and conducts fundamental research in the field of materials science.

- Technical Units

The Faculty possesses a highly effective radiochemical analysis facility: the Isotope Laboratory, which is also in charge of radiation protection training at the University. Scientific service facilities such as the NMR and Mass Spectrometry Units or the Central Analysis Unit provide assistance to the research projects. In addition, the faculty workshops provide highly qualified support in the areas of precision engineering, electronics, and glass engineering.